

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise this morning with somewhat of caution and will try to keep my face to the body and at the same time look behind me, not knowing exactly what my position is or what my stature is. But be that as it may, I rise this morning to bring to your attention some things that have been touched upon but have not been elaborated on. I am in support of doing anything and everything that we can to help agriculture in Nebraska. It appears to me, however, and while I am in sympathy and support of Senator Vickers efforts, that we may perhaps be getting the horse before the cart, but definitely have to have that cart there ready to hook up. This morning I called the president pro tem of the Midwest Conference of State Legislatures, Senator Robert Garton in Indiana, and suggested to him that an emergency meeting either of the Exec Board of the Midwest Conference, or a combined meeting of the agricultural committees of the Midwest Conference, together with the banking and finance committees, call a meeting as quickly as possible to form a coalition of midwest states to go back to Washington and present our plight, and not only our plight, because they know what it is, but to also take with them solutions because we always hear, when we go back, we understand but we don't know what to do, or there is nothing to do. I think unless we carry with us, or they carry with them solutions to the problem for consideration, we are wasting our time and taxpayer money in so doing. I would suggest to you that we encourage and work towards a united group making this journey as opposed to Nebraska going alone, Iowa going alone or whatever. The meeting of this, and I suggested to the chairman that a meeting of this combined group could be done over a weekend, knowing full well that all legislatures are in session now, and that a time frame could be worked out to go to Washington that would fit all of us, and that we should cooperate in doing just that. I only bring this as an item of concern to us and one that, I think, we should seriously consider before we load up 10, or 20, or 49, for that matter. I think that the number of states that go back is much more important than the number of individual state legislators. Thank you, Mr. President, for that opportunity.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Carsten. Of course, any of you will have an opportunity to speak again on the resolution itself, other than this amendment. The recognizes Senator Sieck.